

## DRUG AND POISON INFORMATION

### Introduction to drug information resources available

#### Drug Information:

Drug information is the provision of unbiased, well referenced and critically evaluated information on any aspect of pharmacy practice.

#### Need of drug information:

- The number of drugs in the international market has increased very much.
- The newer drugs are generally more potent and selective, and formulations becoming increasingly complex.
- The literature on drugs has also expanded and covers a wide range of information.
- To introduce a new drug into the practice, the professionals need to evaluate the given information.
- A simple, quick reference to a pharmacopoeia or formulary is no longer sufficient.

#### Aims and objectives of drug information services:

- The provision of information to health professionals on specific problems related to the use of drugs in particular patients.
- The provision of information to officials in government agencies to optimize the decision making process.
- The preparation and development of guidelines and formularies.
- To improve patient compliance and to provide a guide to responsible self medication
- To develop and participate in continuing education programs.
- To participate in undergraduate and graduate teaching programs
- To develop educational activities regarding the appropriate use of drugs for patients in the community
- To prepare and distribute material on drugs to health personnel in the form of a drug information bulletin and other media
- To develop and participate in research programs.

#### Sources of Information:

SOURCE	EXPLANATION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Primary source	Information is presented by authors without any evaluation by a second party. Provides most current information about drugs. Ex: Articles published in journals (British	Adapted information recent, Up-to-date Not available to competitors	Costly Difficult to collect Time consuming

	medical journal), tesis.		
Secondary source	The original source has	Low in cost	Incomplete, outdated

	<p>been evaluated by second party other than the publisher                  Modified and rearranged form                  Example: Review articles like lexis-nexis, Medline, Text books</p>	<p>Diversity                  Available                  Problem definition                  Familiar with market</p>	<p>Inadequate                  False information                  Difficult to control</p>
Tertiary source	<p>Information obtained from primary and secondary source and arranged in a manner to represent a composite of the available information                  Example: Representative form pharmacopeias- BP, USP, IP, Encyclopedia,</p>	<p>Easy and convenient access to a broad spectrum of topics.                  Background information on drugs and diseases.                  Answer many drug related problems, excellent first line resources.</p>	<p>Lag time associated with publication                  Incomplete information, human bias                  Lack of expertise by authors- misinterpretation of primary and secondary literature.</p>

